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PROFESSOR THOMAS CRAIG, PH. D.

Thomas Craig, the former editor of this JOURNAL, and Professor of Pure Mathematics in the Johns Hopkins University, died May 8, 1900, in his forty-fifth year. His connection with the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS, as editor or associate editor, continued through the greater part of its existence, being severed at the end of 1898, when failing health compelled him to retire from the editorship. Craig was connected with the Johns Hopkins University from its foundation. He was attracted thither by the desire to pursue mathematical studies under the guidance of Sylvester. From the beginning he showed an extraordinary development of the faculty of acquisition, being able to master, almost without effort, the writings of any of the great geometers to which he was attracted. The productive faculty was developed more slowly.

He was naturally among the earliest Doctors of the University, and the first, or one of the first, to graduate in mathematics. His earliest publications were two small books on hydrodynamics, and a work on projections, prepared for the U. S. Coast Survey, with which he was associated for a short period after his graduation. His most elaborate separate work was a treatise on Linear Differential Equations, embodying the course of instruction on that subject which he gave to the students of the University. A work on higher geometry, on which he was engaged, but, so far as the writer is aware, on which he had made little progress, was left unfinished at the time of his death.

He was also a frequent contributor to the pages of this JOURNAL. Among the contributions worthy of especial mention were his various papers on Theta functions, in the fifth and sixth volumes, and a memoir on Linear Differential Equations whose fundamental integrals are the successive derivatives of the same function, in the eighth volume.

During his editorship he devoted himself with great energy to the interests of the JOURNAL. The principal object of at least one of his visits abroad was to interest European geometers in it. He recognized and admired the genius of Poincaré; and two elaborate memoirs by the latter, which appeared in the seventh and eighth volumes, were believed to have been sent to the JOURNAL on Craig's personal solicitation.

As an expounder of mathematical subjects to advanced students, Craig's abilities were of a high order. His lectures were well prepared, and he spoke with rapidity, clearness and force. It may well be that only the best students were able to keep up with him, but these profited in a high degree from his expositions and entertained a permanent appreciation of his efforts for their development. Concentrating his interests almost entirely on his family and his students, rarely taking a long rest, he mingled little with men, especially in his later years, when his activities were greatly restricted by failing health.

SIMON NEWCOMB.

The writer is indebted to Dr. L. P. Eisenhart for part of the material on which this notice is based.